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## *STUDY OUTLINE SERIES*

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# CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH LITERATURE

Many clubs are convinced of the advantage of studying one subject throughout the season, and for this work a carefully prepared program is needed. Local or state committees and state library commissions have spent time in preparing outlines which would be suitable for use elsewhere if they could be made available by printing. It is proposed in this series to centralize such work and to conserve the effort spent in making a good outline by putting it in shape for distribution. Clubs themselves by an actual testing of the outlines thus offered will be able to offer suggestions and criticism which will lead to a revision of form.

# The Study Outline and Its Use

The series will include outlines on art, literature, travel, biography, history and present day questions.

The outlines vary in length. If more topics are given than the number of club meetings for the season, those topics that are more difficult to handle or on which there is less available material, may be dropped. If there are fewer topics than the scheduled meetings, certain topics may be divided.

Lists of books are appended to some of the outlines. It would be well for the club to own some of the recommended books. Others can be obtained either from the local public library or from the state traveling library. When very full lists are given it is not necessary for any club to use all the books, but the longer list leaves more room for choice.

The best material on some subjects may be found, not in books, but in magazines. These may be looked up under the subject in the *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature*. Magazine articles and illustrated material may be obtained from the *Wilson Package Library*. For terms see fourth page of cover.

A list of the study outlines now in print will be found on page three of this cover. For later additions to the list write to publisher.

# CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH LITERATURE

## A STUDY OUTLINE

PREPARED BY  
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# STUDY OUTLINE ON CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH LITERATURE

Poems or novels marked with a star are specially commended either for their intrinsic merit or for their representative character.

## A. FOUNDATION BOOKS

(There is no book which covers the period with any degree of completion)

Hugh Walker, Literature of the Victorian era (Putnam, 1910, \$2.50) gives a good account of all the dead authors who touch the Victorian period.

Reuben Post Halleck, New English literature (American Book Co., 1913, 90c) ch. 9 and 10 deal with the Victorian era and the twentieth century.

## B. COLLATERAL REFERENCES

Thomas Hardy, Profitable reading of fiction, Forum 5: 57-70

H. G. Wells, The contemporary novel, Atlantic 109: 1-11

# I

## ALGERNON CHARLES SWINBURNE (1837-1909)

### A. SELECTIONS

Arthur Beatty, Swinburne's selected poems, with introduction, notes, and bibliography (Crowell, 35c) (Contains a representative selection of poems.)

Arthur Beatty, Swinburne's selected dramas, with introduction, notes, and bibliography (Crowell, \$1.25) (Contains Atalanta in Calydon, Erechtheus, and Mary Stuart.) **330970**

## B. REFERENCES

George Edward Woodberry, Swinburne (McClure, Phillips & Company, 1906)  
E. C. Stedman, Victorian poets (Houghton, 1903, \$2.25)  
Coventry Patmore, Principle in art (Macmillan, \$1)  
J. R. Lowell, My study windows (Houghton, \$2)  
Oliver Elton, Modern studies (Longman, 1907, \$2)

## C. POEMS

Study the lyric, elegiac and personal poems for Swinburne's rhythmical quality and thought. For the first quality of rhythm and music study, Hymn to Proserpine, Stylus, Rococo, The garden of Proserpine, and A forsaken garden; and for thought study Hertha, Hymn of man.

The ode to Athens is difficult, but is so important that it should be studied carefully.

## D. DRAMAS

Atalanta in Calydon should be read for its magnificent thought and meter. It is the most perfect imitation of a Greek play in English.

Erechtheus is a fine play, but is not so well known as Atalanta in Calydon, probably because the story is not so interesting.

Among the finest poems of Swinburne are the choruses in these two plays; and they should be carefully studied. Much help in the appreciation of Swinburne's verse will be obtained from Professor Woodberry's volume.

## II

## GEORGE MEREDITH (1828-1909)

## A. MOST IMPORTANT NOVELS

\*The ordeal of Richard Feverel (1859)  
Evan Harrington (1861)  
Rhoda Fleming (1865)

The egoist (1879)  
 \*Diana of the Crossways (1885)  
 The amazing marriage (1895)

## B. POEMS

The poetical works complete in one volume, with notes by G. M. Trevelyan (Scribner, 1912, \$2)

## C. REFERENCES

Letters of George Meredith, edited by his son, (2v. Scribner, 1912, \$4)  
 George M. Trevelyan, Poetry and philosophy of George Meredith (Scribner, 1912, \$1)  
 Constantin Photiades, George Meredith, translated from the French by Arthur Price (Scribner, 1913, \$1.25)

## D. NOVELS AND POEMS

1. *The ordeal of Richard Feverel*

The theme of this novel is a system of education as applied to youth and its failure.

Chapter XIX.—“A diversion played on a penny whistle”—is a prose lyric. Connect the opening rhythm with the meter of his poem Love in the valley.

Write a sketch of the character of Lucy Desborough.

2. *The egoist*

This is a character study—a problem in psychology

Study the character of Clara Middleton, and write a paper on her.

3. *Evan Harrington*

This is a sprightly story of a young tailor, and is based on fact.

4. *Diana of the Crossways*

The theme of this novel is the right of a woman to work out her own destiny. Show in a paper how this is done.

Discuss Meredith's treatment of divorce.

Was Diana justified in selling the great political secret to the newspaper? Discuss.

5. *Poems*

For the early poems, study Love in the Valley (1851)

For a fine treatment of love and estrangement, study Modern Love (1862). Write a paper on this series of poems.

For Meredith's philosophy of nature and life, study The lark ascending (1881), The Woods of Westermain (1883), Ode to the spirit of earth in autumn (1862), South-west wind in the woodland (1851). Read Trevelyan's discussion of these poems.

For Meredith's social poems, read his ballads, Juggling Jerry (1859), and The old Chartist (1862)

## III

## THOMAS HARDY (1840-)

## A. MOST IMPORTANT NOVELS

Far from the madding crowd (1874)

\*Return of the native (1878)

Mayor of Casterbridge (1886)

The Woodlanders (1886)

\*Tess of the D'Urbervilles (1892)

## B. REFERENCES

Helen Garwood, Thomas Hardy, an illustration of the philosophy of Schopenhauer, 1911.

Lionel P. Johnson, The art of Thomas Hardy, 1894. (John Lane)

Anne McDonell, Thomas Hardy, 1895.

C. Windle, The Wessex of Thomas Hardy, 1902.

Hermann Lea, Thomas Hardy's Wessex, 1913. (Macmillan)

Alfred Noyes, Poetry of Thomas Hardy. No Am 194:96

## C. NOVELS

1. *The return of the native*

In an article in *Forum*, 5: 57-70, Hardy says: "Our true object is a lesson in life, mental enlargement from elements essential to the narratives themselves, and from the reflections they engender." Apply this principle to this novel.

Hardy makes a notable use of nature. His Egdon Heath is almost a character in the novel. Write a paper on this.

Write a paper on the pessimism of Hardy as shown in this book.

Clym Yeobright is one of Hardy's greatest characters. Contrast him with the equally fine character of the reddleman.

It has been said that Hardy's women act too much from instinct and too little from reason. In the light of this, study Thomasin and Eustacia Vye.

2. *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*

In the preface to this book (5th edition) Hardy says: "A novel is an impression, not an argument." Study this perplexing novel with this in mind.

Tess is one of the greatest woman characters in Hardy. Note her surroundings. Write a paper on her.

Study the two types of character—Angel Clare and Alec D'Urberville.

3. *Far from the madding crowd*

This is an early novel, but should be studied, if only for the sake of Gabriel Oak and Bathsheba Everdene.

This novel was mistaken for a work of George Eliot. In what ways does it resemble her work?

## IV

## RUDYARD KIPLING (1865-)

## A. MOST IMPORTANT BOOKS

- The light that failed (1891)
- Barrack room ballads (1892)
- \*Plain tales from the Hills (1890)
- Life's handicap (1897)
- \*The Seven Seas (1897)
- \*Kim (1901)
- \*First and Second Jungle Books (1894 and 1895)  
(Doubleday, \$1.50 a volume)

## B. REFERENCES

Charles Eliot Norton, *Rudyard Kipling, a biographical sketch*, 1899.

Numerous magazine articles, especially from 1897 on, attesting to his great popularity.

## C. NOVELS

1. *Kim*

Notable as a magnificent picture of Indian life in its mystery and complexity.

In character-drawing, Kipling has given two contrasted types—the Anglo-Indian Kim and the Indian Buddhist priest.

The philosophy of India is presented, and is worth study.

## D. SHORT STORIES

1. *Plain tales from the hills*

This volume is notable as a study of Indian life, especially of English official life. It made India known to the western world.

It is notable for certain stories, especially those which introduce the three soldiers.

2. *Life's handicap*

This volume is memorable for the reason that it contains some of Kipling's greatest stories: The courting of Dinah Shadd, On Greenhow Hill, Without benefit of clergy, and The man who was.

It compares with the other volume in its humorous stories.

It is marked by the picturing of the ghastly and terrible.

#### E. POETRY

##### 1. *Barrack-room ballads*

This volume made Kipling known, and is notable for *Mandalay*, *Danny Deever*, and *Fuzzy-Wuzzy*.

It showed Kipling's tendency to use very unconventional language and rhythms.

##### 2. *The Seven Seas*

This is Kipling's greatest volume of verse. In it he shows himself as the laureate of the British Empire. *The Song of the English*, *The native born*, *The flowers*, *The song of the banjo*, and some other poems should be studied to show this.

The volume is remarkable, too, for the further studies of army life, such as: *That day*, *Bill 'Awkins*, and *Soldier and sailor too*.

The volume also contains what some think to be Kipling's most important and characteristic poem, *MacAndrews' hymn*. It also contains the striking poem of *Wanderlust*, *For to admire*, and the famous *Envoi*.

## V

### ROBERT BRIDGES (1844-)

#### A. WORKS

The most important of Bridges's works are contained in *Poems of Robert Bridges* (Oxford Univ Press, 1913, 50c) :-

#### B. REFERENCES

Bridges and the laureateship, *Outlook*, 104: 594.

Lyrical poetry of the new laureate, *Forum*, 50: 877-90.

Poetry of Robert Bridges, *Living age*, 278: 515-29,

Robert Bridges's literary alphabet, *Independent*, 76: 131

Laureate and his work, *Independent*, 75: 259-60.

C. PLAYS

The two masks, *Prometheus the firegiver*, and *Demeter*, in the Oxford edition, are representative of his plays. They are literary and imitative of classical models, and are written in exquisite verse.

D. NARRATIVE POEMS

His one long narrative poem, *Eros and Psyche* (1895), is worthy of study. It is based on the prose account of Apuleius, and is worthy of its original.

Study the verse of this poem.

E. THE SHORTER POEMS

The finest of these are lyrics. First should be mentioned the sonnet-sequence called *The Growth of Love*. Study this for the story, and study some of the finest sonnets individually.

The best of the other lyrics are:

Elegy, p. 225

A passer-by, p. 244

There is a hill, p. 248

The downs, p. 251

I have loved flowers that fade, p. 263

A robin, p. 309

I never shall love the snow again, p. 309

Nightingales, p. 311

VI

GEORGE GISSING (1857-1903)

A. MOST IMPORTANT NOVELS

\**The new Grub street*, 1904 (Dutton, \$1.50)

Will Warburton, 1905

\**Thyrza*, 1907 (Dutton, \$1)

## B. REFERENCES

Read carefully Gissing's *The private papers of Henry Ryecroft*, 1906 (Dutton, \$1.50). This book is really an autobiography of Gissing, and gives fine expression to his noble artistic ideals in fiction.

Reminiscences, *Living age*, 251: 216

The idealistic realist, *Atlantic*, 93: 280.

An impression of Gissing, *Living age*, 243: 31

Gissing, The spokesman of despair, *Living age*, 243: 733.

Work of George Gissing, *Living age*, 240: 714-723.

## C. NOVELS

1. *The New Grub Street*

Connect this novel with *The private papers of Henry Ryecroft*, and note the autobiographical element.

Note how the story is made to revolve around the literary center.

Note that in spite of the general theme, Gissing has a place for humor in the book.

2. *Will Warburton*

Note the sub-title: "A romance of real life." This is eminently characteristic of the author.

Follow the career of Warburton, and note the autobiographical element.

3. *Thyrsa*

Egremont, "the idealist," the social reformer, and his love, form the subject of the novel. Study his character.

Note the London of Gissing which is the background of this novel, and the London types of character.

With Egremont contrast Gilbert Grail, the "man of the people."

The main character in the book is, of course, Thyrsa Trent. She is a remarkable study in characterization.

## VII

## JOSEPH CONRAD (1857-)

## A. MOST IMPORTANT NOVELS

- \**Typhoon*, 1903 (Putnam, \$1.50)
- Nostromo*, 1904 (Harper, \$1.35)
- \**Lord Jim*, 1909 (Doubleday, \$1.35)
- Romance*, 1912 (Doubleday, \$1.35)
- Chance*, 1914 (Doubleday, \$1.35)

## B. REFERENCES

- Art of Joseph Conrad, *Living age*, 236: 120.
- Genius of Joseph Conrad, *North American review* 178: 842-52.
- Atlantic*, 98: 697.
- Disquisition of Conrad, *Living age*, 257: 416-20.
- Joseph Conrad and sea fiction, *Living age*, 276: 264-78.
- Harper's weekly*, 46: 1412-3, and *Forum* 34: 400-2.
- If Conrad's preface to *The Nigger of the "Narcissus"* is available, it should be read, as it gives an insight into Conrad's methods and ideals.

## C. NOVELS

1. *Typhoon*

The primary qualities of Conrad are (1) powers of description, especially description of the sea, (2) intensity of emotional narrative, (3) tensely emotional characterization, and (4) vividness and swiftness of action.

The striking thing about his thought is his fatalism, or belief in *chance*. This is clearly to be seen in his novels, and should be studied.

Study the characters in the light of these statements, and in relationship to the general action.

Study Conrad's descriptions of the fight of the ship against the tempestuous seas.

2. *Lord Jim*

Study the leading character, and note how he recovers his self-respect.

Note the descriptions of sea and forest.

Note the psychological problem involved: the man failed to meet a crisis, lost his self-respect, and succeeds in regaining it after a long period.

## VIII

## WILLIAM DE MORGAN (1839-)

## A. MOST IMPORTANT NOVELS

Joseph Vance, 1906 (Holt, \$1.35)

\*Somehow good, 1908 (Holt, \$1.35)

\*It never can happen again, 1909 (Holt, \$1.35)

## B. REFERENCES

William T. Scott, Chesterton and other essays (Eaton & Mains, 1912, \$1.25)

Somehow good, Living age, 257: 567-70.

De Morgan, artist, potter, and novelist, Outlook, 90: 711-18.

De Morgan's confession, Outlook, 96: 375.

Letter to William de Morgan, Atlantic, 106: 249-53.

## C. NOVELS

1. *Somehow good*

The title is borrowed from Tennyson's In Memoriam:

"O, yet we trust that, somehow, good  
Will be the final goal of ill."

This moral problem is the theme of the whole novel. Study in detail how it is worked out in the case of Sally.

De Morgan is a real character creator. Sally is well worth study.

Note De Morgan's interest in the psychological problem of lost personality and its gradual return.

The author has been blamed for his use of the "long arm of coincidence." Is this true of the meeting of Sally and Fenwick?

2. *It never can happen again*

Study the relationship between Dickens and De Morgan. Compare Lizarann Coup-land and her father with some of Dickens's characters.

Compare the use of London as a background in Dickens and De Morgan.

Study the character of Lady Julia Akroyd, and her relationship to Alfred Challis.

As type of the hateful character, Mrs. Eldridge ("Charlotte") is worthy of study.

De Morgan is humorous and pathetic in character and incident. To illustrate this, follow the career of Lizarann.

## IX

### H. G. WELLS (1866-)

A. MOST IMPORTANT NOVELS

\*Tono-Bungay, 1908 (Duffield, \$1.50)

The New Machiavelli, 1910 (Duffield, \$1.35)

\*Marriage, 1912 (Duffield, \$1.35)

The passionate friends, 1913 (Harper, \$1.35)

B. REFERENCES

H. G. Wells and the American sphinx, Living age, 251: 565.

The theme of Tono-Bungay, Living age, 264: 604-607.

Outlook, 70: 780-781.

Atlantic, 94: 275.

North American review, 198: 718-723.

H. G. Wells, social prophet, Independent, 76: 348-353.

## C. NOVELS

1. *Tono-Bungay*

For an understanding of the purpose of Wells and of the novel in general as he conceives it, read an article by Wells on the contemporary novel in the *Atlantic monthly*, January 1912.

Note that this novel is a story of "big business," the story of the success and failure of a business in a patent medicine.

Wells is weak in characterization. Uncle Ponderovo is the only living character.

Note the conventional characters, such as George Ponderovo and Beatrice.

The novel is autobiographical in form, and is really so, to a large extent, of Wells himself.

2. *Marriage*

A study in marriage. Note that it is not a story of illicit passion, but an attempt to show how people are alienated by the mere complexity of modern urban life.

The story is an indictment of modern society, in its bad fitting of means to end and its terrible waste. See the passage on waste, p. 490ff.

The ending has been criticized as unconvincing. However, Labrador was intended by the author to stand for a society where people could get back to first things and simple relationships. It was there that husband and wife first learned to know each other.

Each of Wells's novels has a "thesis," and this is no exception.

## X

## ARNOLD BENNETT (1867-)

## A. MOST IMPORTANT NOVELS

- \**Clayhanger*, 1910 (Dutton, \$1.50)
- Hilda Lessways*, 1911 (Dutton, \$1.50)
- \**The old wives' tale*, 1909 (Doran, \$1.50)

## B. REFERENCES

The fiction of Arnold Bennett, Harper's, 124: 638-40.

Arnold Bennett, an appreciation, Living age, 269: 131-6.

## C. NOVELS

1. *Clayhanger*

This novel illustrates certain characteristics of Bennett: (1) he is the novelist of ordinary, everyday commercialism; not of romantic commercialism. Edwin Clayhanger is an illustration of this; (2) he localizes his best stories at Five Towns; (3) his plots are very loose; (4) he is interested in facts and things and not in character.

Note that this novel is a detailed story of a man's life.

2. *The old wives' tale*

Read the preface to the novel.

This story is a detailed account of the lives of two sisters.

Note the variety of character types.

Note the descriptions: for instance, the execution, p 331ff, the siege of Paris, p 400ff, and the murder, p 219ff.

## XI

## JOHN GALSWORTHY (1867-)

## A. MOST IMPORTANT WORKS

1. *Novels*

\*The Man of Property, 1906 (Putnam, \$1.35)  
Fraternity, 1909 (Putnam, \$1.35)  
\*The Patrician, 1911 (Scribner, \$1.50)

2. *Plays*

Plays: \*The silver box, Joy, \*Strife.  
(Putnam, \$1.35)

## B. REFERENCES

J. Galsworthy, the new spirit in the drama,  
Living age, 277: 259-66.  
Nation, 95: 572.  
Outlook, March 23, 1912.  
Harper's weekly, April 6, 1912.

## C. NOVELS

1. *The man of property*

This is a story of a family group—the Forsytes.

It is an attack on conventionality, as embodied in the story of June and Philip Bonsinney.

2. *The patrician*

A satire on "the Vere de Veres," the high aristocracy, and their prejudices.

Note that the entanglement depends on divorce and its problems.

Miltoun is a fine study of character. The tragedy comes not from wickedness, but from lack of stamina.

## D. PLAYS

1. *The silver box*

The play is an indictment of the law as it is administered. Jack is not arrested, but Jones is sentenced.

Note how the play makes no concession to sentiment. It moves relentlessly to its end.

2. *Strife*

The theme is the struggle between Capital and Labor, and its consequences.

Note the two men, John Anthony and David Roberts, both strong and honest, and both wrong.

## XII

## WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS (1865-)

## A. MOST IMPORTANT PLAYS

\**The Countess Cathleen* (1899)

\**The Land of Heart's Desire* (1894)

\**Cathleen ni Hoolihan* (1902)

The first two plays are contained in the Poetical works of Yeats, 1907 (Macmillan, \$2).

The third play is contained in *The Hour-glass and other plays*, 1904 (Macmillan, \$1.25 net).

## B. REFERENCES

H. S. Krans, Yeats and the Irish literary revival, 1904 (McClure, Phillips & Co.)

William Sharp, Later work of Yeats, North American review, 175: 473, 485.

C. F. G. Masterman, After the reaction, Living age, 244: 197-9.

## C. PLAYS

1. *The Countess Cathleen*

Note that the play is in verse.

The play is the story of the sale by the Countess Cathleen of her soul to the Demon to save others.

2. *The Land of Heart's Desire*

A perfect gem of poetry.

A beautiful fairy play on the theme of revolt from dull reality.

3. *Cathleen ni Hoolihan*

The heroine is the symbol of Ireland in the possession of the English.

Show how this theme is developed.

## XIII

## ARTHUR CHRISTOPHER BENSON (1862-)

## A. MOST IMPORTANT WORKS

- \**The Upton letters* (1907)
- \**From a college window* (1907)
- Ruskin, a study in personality* (1911)  
(Putnam, \$1.25 each)

## B. REFERENCES

- Three Bensons, Living age*, 27:713-19.
- Harper's weekly*, 51:1644.
- Outlook*, 85:399-401.
- Forum*, 40:400-5.

## C. BOOKS

In the work on Ruskin, he attempts to reconstruct the personality of Ruskin; and so to bring home to us the work of his author.

This is characteristic of the work of Benson in general. All his work is a study and revelation of personality.

*From a college window* is a very fine example of this general principle.

Select for study half a dozen essays from the first two volumes.

## XIV

## GILBERT K. CHESTERTON (1874-)

## A. MOST IMPORTANT WORKS

- \**Heretics*, 1905 (John Lane, \$1.50)
- Tremendous Trifles*, 1910.
- Robert Browning*, 1903.
- \**The Victorian age in literature*, 1913 (Holt, 50c).

## B. REFERENCES

- William T. Scott, Chesterton and other essays, 1912 (Eaton and Mains, \$1.25).
- Forum*, 40:394-400.
- Outlook*, 77:580-81.
- Atlantic monthly*, 92:420-3.

## C. BOOKS

1. *Heretics*

In this book is seen to best advantage his love of paradox.

He has a remarkable way of putting things in a new way.

He is a social satirist, and thus allies himself with such men as Galsworthy.

2. *The Victorian age in literature*

This volume shows his grudge against the Victorian age. It also shows him at his best as a critic of a period.

The book is to be noted for its brilliant studies of some of the main authors of the period, for instance, of Macaulay, Tennyson, and Browning.

Chesterton has written novels, poems, and plays; but his essays are much more important.

## XV

## ALFRED NOYES (1880-)

## A. MOST IMPORTANT WORKS

Collected poems of Alfred Noyes, 1913 (Stokes, \$3).

## B. REFERENCES

Review of Noyes's poems, North American review, 183: 1179-82.

Alfred Noyes as a poet, North American review, 188: 451-4.

Review of Drake, Forum, 43: 550-8.

North American review, 194: 96-105.

Forum, 8: 535-48.

Century, July, 1914.

## C. POEMS

1. *Forty singing seamen, and The barrel organ*

These poems are most characteristic of Noyes's early work. They are marked by (1) rollicking rhythms and (2) humor.

2. *The highwayman* is an example of a grim story treated with power.

3. *Drake* (1909) is a long epic praising the "spacious time of great Elizabeth" in general and the heroism of Drake in particular.

a Study the character of Drake as depicted in the poem.

b Study the lyrics which are introduced into the main body of the story.

4. *Tales of the Mermaid Tavern* (1913) is a series of poems celebrating the greatness of Shakespeare, Marlowe, Ben Johnson, and their contemporaries.

Note the fine ballad poem, *A knight of the Ocean-Sea*, in praise of Sir Humphrey Gilbert.

The Sign of the Golden Shoe is the tragic story of Christopher Marlowe.

## XVI

## WILFRID WILSON GIBSON (1878-)

## A. MOST IMPORTANT WORKS

*Daily bread*, 1910 (Macmillan, \$1.25)

\**Fires*, in three books, 1912 (Macmillan, \$1.25)

## B. REFERENCES

A poet of the people, *Outlook*, 100: 328-9.

Two of the newest poets, *Atlantic monthly*, 111: 489-95.

## C. POEMS

1. *Daily bread* is a series of little plays, or dialogues, dealing with the life of the laboring classes.

Note especially, *On the road*, *The firstborn*, and especially *The night-shift*.

Note the short line and free rhythm of these poems.

2. *Fires* is a series of poems on topics similar to those of *Daily bread*.

As a sample study especially *The hare*.

Note that it is written in the four-foot iambic line, rhyming in couplets.

*The machine*, *The crane*, and *The ovens* have as their background modern machinery.

*Red Fox* is a tale of passion.

*The shop* is a pleasant little domestic story told by the customer of the shop.

## XVII

## JOHN MASEFIELD (1875-)

## A. MOST IMPORTANT WORKS

\**The everlasting mercy*, 1911.

*The widow in the Bye street*, 1911 (Macmillan)

*The story of a round-house*, 1913

The first two are contained in one volume (Macmillan, \$1.25)

## B. REFERENCES

A visit to John Masefield, *Independent*, 73: 533-538.

*Living English poets*, *North American review*, 198: 375-7.

Masefield's poetry, *Living age*, 278: 141-8.

*Poetry and the average man*, *Outlook*, 103: 260-1.

*Two of the newest poets*, *Atlantic monthly*, 111: 489-95.

## C. POEMS

1. *The everlasting mercy*

The poem is narrative, and is thus characteristic of Masefield.

The poem deals with life in a very realistic manner. Nevertheless, there is a strongly marked idealistic tendency.

The verse form is the four-foot iambic rhyming in couplets.

2. *The story of a round-house*

This is the story of a man who aspired to be an artist, but who was cut off by a hard fate.

The description of the storm at sea in this poem is probably unsurpassed in English literature. It may be compared with the storm in Byron's *Don Juan*, Canto II.

Study the character of Dauber, and note that while he failed, he at least aspired.

Masefield is a narrative poet. Study the vigor and directness of this story.

Note that in spite of the occasional and frequently needless vulgarity of language, Masefield has a serious purpose.

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# List of Study Outlines

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